

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of assuming risk for a lottery operator, the method comprising:

providing, with a prize guarantee system separate from the lottery operator, a guarantee of payment of a predetermined fixed jackpot prize in a lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is funded according to a first percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is indicated prior to lottery ticket sales for the lottery game such that the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is not completely funded prior to initiation of the lottery game, wherein the guarantee of payment guarantees the difference between the predetermined fixed jackpot prize and the first percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game if the first percentage of the lottery ticket sales for the lottery game is less than the predetermined fixed jackpot prize, wherein the guarantee is in exchange for a stipulation of a second percentage of lottery ticket sales revenue in the lottery game, wherein the second percentage is distinct from the first percentage, wherein the providing the guarantee occurs prior to the ticket sales for revenue in the lottery game; and

receiving, with a receiving system separate from the lottery operator, the second percentage of the lottery ticket sales from in the lottery operator.

2. **(Cancelled).**

3. **(Cancelled).**

4. **(Cancelled).**

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the prize is secondary prize is provided in addition to the predetermined fixed jackpot prize.

6. **(Cancelled).**

7. **(Cancelled).**

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing the guarantee is effectuated to a jurisdiction.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing the guarantee assumes the risk of the lottery.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the lottery game is ~~can~~ be played on a video lottery terminal.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the lottery game is ~~can~~ be played on a computing device operably connected to the Internet.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a lottery ticket for the lottery game is ~~can be~~ purchased at a point of sale location.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising obtaining insurance to provide the guarantee of payment.

14. (Currently Amended) A lottery risk assumption system, comprising:

a prize guarantee system, which is separate from the lottery operator, that provides a guarantee of payment of a predetermined fixed jackpot prize in a lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is funded according to a first percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is indicated prior to lottery ticket sales for the lottery game such that the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is not completely funded prior to initiation of the lottery game, wherein the guarantee of payment guarantees the difference between the predetermined fixed jackpot prize and the first percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game if the first percentage of the lottery ticket sales for the lottery game is less than the predetermined fixed jackpot prize, wherein the prize guarantee system provides the guarantee in exchange for a stipulation for a second percentage of lottery ticket sales revenue in the lottery game, wherein the second percentage is distinct from the first percentage, wherein the prize guarantee system provides the guarantee prior to ~~the~~ ticket sales in the lottery game; and

a receiving system that receives, with a receiving system separate from the lottery operator, the percentage of the ticket sales revenue in the lottery.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) The lottery risk assumption system of claim 14, wherein ~~the prize is~~ secondary prize is provided in addition to the predetermined fixed jackpot prize.

18. (Original) The lottery risk assumption system of claim 14, wherein the guarantee guarantees that the payment of the prize will be paid even if the ticket sales revenue is not greater in size than the payment of the prize.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Original) The lottery risk assumption system of claim 14, wherein the prize guarantee system provides the guarantee to a jurisdiction.

21. (Currently Amended) The lottery risk assumption system of claim 14, wherein the prize guarantee system assumes the risk of the lottery operator.

22. (Currently Amended) The lottery risk assumption system of claim 14, wherein the lottery is ~~can be~~ played on a video lottery terminal.

23. (Currently Amended) The lottery risk assumption system of claim 14, wherein the lottery is ~~can be~~ played on a computing device operably connected to the Internet.

24. (Currently Amended) The lottery risk assumption system of claim 14, wherein a lottery ticket for the lottery game is ~~can be~~ purchased at a point of sale location.

25. (Original) The lottery risk assumption system of claim 14, further comprising an insurance system that provides the guarantee of payment.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Cancelled).

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Cancelled).

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Currently Amended) A lottery system comprising:

a guarantee transmission module that transmits a guarantee of payment through a network to a lottery operator that operates a lottery game, wherein the guarantee guarantees ~~the~~ payment of a predetermined fixed jackpot~~lottery~~ prize in the lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is funded according to a percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is indicated prior to lottery ticket sales for the lottery game such that the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is not completely funded prior to initiation of the lottery game, wherein the guarantee of payment guarantees the difference between the predetermined fixed jackpot prize and the percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game if the percentage of the lottery ticket sales for the lottery game is less than the predetermined fixed jackpot prize;

a guarantee reception module, at the lottery operator, that receives the guarantee through the network; and

a lottery creation module, at the lottery operator, that establishes the a lottery game in which players can purchase tickets to win the predetermined lottery prize upon receipt of the guarantee from the guarantee reception module.

36. (Currently Amended) The lottery system of claim 35, wherein the lottery creation module provides an instruction to a point of sale location such that~~that allows~~ the point of sale location is authorized to sell a ticket for the lottery game.

37. (Original) The lottery system of claim 35, wherein the network is a local area network.

38. (Original) The lottery system of claim 35, wherein the network is a wide area network.

39. (Original) The lottery system of claim 35, wherein the network is the Internet.

40. (Currently Amended) The lottery system of claim 35, further comprising a risk module that upon the winning of the predetermined lottery prize performs the determining~~determines~~ if the percentage of the lottery ticket sales for the lottery game is less than the predetermined fixed jackpot prize~~tickets sales for the predetermined lottery prize are less than the predetermine lottery prize~~.

41. (Currently Amended) The lottery system of claim 40, wherein the risk module transmits a payment request through the network if the percentage of the lottery ticket sales for the lottery game is less than the predetermined fixed jackpot prize~~ticket sales for the predetermined lottery prize are less than the predetermined lottery prize~~.

42. (Currently Amended) The lottery system of claim 35, wherein the guarantee is provided in exchange for a stipulation[[]] ~~of payment for a percentage of future ticket sales~~.

43. (Currently Amended) The lottery system of claim ~~42~~35, further comprising a stipulation reception module that receives, through the network, the stipulation of payment for the percentage of future ticket sales.

44. (Original) The lottery system of claim 43, wherein the stipulation reception module is operably connected to the guarantee transmission module.

45. (Currently Amended) A game of chance guarantee system comprising:

a guarantee transmission module that transmits a guarantee of payment through a network to a gaming machine that operates a game of chance, wherein the guarantee guarantees ~~the~~ payment of a predetermined prize in ~~the~~a game of chance, wherein the predetermined a prize is ~~can be~~ won by winning the game of chance, wherein the game of chance is played according to a plurality of rules, wherein the guarantee is provided in exchange for a stipulation for a percentage of the wagers;

a guarantee reception module, which is stored in the gaming machine, that receives the guarantee through the network; and

a game of chance creation module, which is stored in the gaming machine, that establishes the game of chance upon receipt of the guarantee from the guarantee reception module, wherein players can make wagers in the game of chance.

46. (Cancelled).

47. (Currently Amended) The game of chance guarantee system of claim ~~45~~46, wherein the game of chance creation module establishes the game of chance by providing an instruction to a controller housed within the gaming machine to initiate the game of chance.

48. (Currently Amended) The game of chance guarantee system of claim 45, wherein ~~a~~the stipulation reception module receives, through the network, the stipulation of payment for the percentage of wagers.

49. (Original) The game of chance guarantee system of claim 45, wherein the network is a local area network.

50. (Original) The game of chance guarantee system of claim 45, wherein the network is a wide area network.

51. (Original) The game of chance guarantee system of claim 45, wherein the network is the Internet.

52. (Currently Amended) The game of chance guarantee system of claim 4845, wherein the stipulation reception module is operably connected to the guarantee transmission module.

53. (Currently Amended) A method for guaranteeing a probabilistic lottery system, comprising:

providing, with a prize guarantee system that is separate from a lottery operator establishing a lottery game, a guarantee of payment for a ~~pre-determined~~ predetermined fixed jackpot prize, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is ~~can be~~ advertised by thea lottery operator, wherein the pre-determined prize is increased by a percentage of each ticket sale after each ticket sale wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is funded according to a first percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is indicated prior to lottery ticket sales for the lottery game such that the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is not completely funded prior to initiation of the lottery game, wherein the guarantee of payment guarantees the difference between the predetermined fixed jackpot prize and the first percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game if the percentage of the lottery ticket sales for the lottery game is less than the predetermined fixed jackpot prize, wherein the prize guarantee system provides the guarantee in exchange for a stipulation for a second percentage of lottery ticket sales in the lottery game, wherein the second percentage is distinct from the first percentage, wherein the prize guarantee system provides the guarantee prior to ticket sales for in the lottery game; and

receiving, with a receiving system that is separate from the lottery opreator, the second percentage of lottery ticket sales from the lottery operatora stipulation for a percentage of ticket sales in exchange for the providing the guarantee.

54. (Cancelled).

55. (Cancelled).

56. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein ~~the prize is~~ a secondary prize is provided in addition to the predetermined fixed jackpot prize.

57. (Cancelled).

58. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the providing the guarantee is effectuated to a jurisdiction.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the providing the guarantee assumes the risk of the lottery operator.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the lottery game is ~~can~~ be played on a video lottery terminal.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the lottery game is ~~can~~ be played on a computing device operably connected to the Internet.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein a lottery ticket for the lottery game is ~~can be~~ purchased at a point of sale location.

63. (Original) The method of claim 53, further comprising obtaining insurance to provide the guarantee of payment.

64. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing, with a prize guarantee system that is separate from a lottery operator establishing a lottery game, a guarantee of payment of a predetermined fixed prize in thea lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is funded according to a percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is indicated prior to lottery ticket sales for the lottery game such that the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is not completely funded prior to initiation of the lottery game, wherein the guarantee of payment guarantees the difference between the predetermined fixed jackpot prize and the percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game if the percentage of the lottery ticket sales for the lottery game is less than the predetermined fixed jackpot prize, wherein the guarantee is in exchange for a stipulation, wherein the providing the guarantee occurs such that the lottery game is established, upon receipt of the guarantee, such that players can purchase tickets to win the predetermined fixed jackpot prize; and

receiving, with a receiving system that is separate from the lottery operator, the stipulation.

65. (Cancelled).

66. (Cancelled).

67. (Cancelled).

68. (Cancelled).

69. (Cancelled).

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein at the prize is secondary prize is provided in addition to the predetermined fixed jackpot prize.

71. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a prize guarantee system that provides, with a prize guarantee system that is separate from a lottery operator establishing a lottery game, a guarantee of payment of a predetermined fixed prize in the lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is funded according to a percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game, wherein the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is indicated prior to lottery ticket sales for the lottery game such that the predetermined fixed jackpot prize is not completely funded prior to initiation of the lottery game, wherein the guarantee of payment guarantees the difference between the predetermined fixed jackpot prize and the percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game if the percentage of the lottery ticket sales for the lottery game is less than the predetermined fixed jackpot prize, wherein the guarantee is in exchange for a stipulation, wherein the providing the guarantee occurs such that the lottery game is established, upon receipt of the guarantee, such that players can purchase tickets to win the prize; and

a receiving system, which is separate from the lottery operator, that receives the stipulation.

72. (Cancelled).

73. (Cancelled).

74. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing, with a prize guarantee system, a guarantee of payment of a predetermined prize in a game of chance through a network to a gaming machine that operates the game of chance, wherein the guarantee is in exchange for a stipulation, wherein the providing the guarantee occurs such that the game of chance is established, upon receipt of the guarantee, such that players can purchase tickets to win the predetermined prize; and

receiving, with a receiving system, the stipulation.

75. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a prize guarantee system that provides, through a network to a gaming machine, a guarantee of payment of a predetermined prize in a game of chance operated by the gaming machine, wherein the guarantee is in exchange for a stipulation, wherein the providing the guarantee occurs such that the game of chance is established, upon receipt of the guarantee, such that players can purchase tickets to win the predetermined prize; and

a receiving system that receives the stipulation.

76. (New) A method of assuming risk for a lottery operator, the method comprising:

providing, with a prize guarantee system separate from the lottery operator, a guarantee of payment of a predetermined jackpot prize, wherein the predetermined jackpot prize is funded according to a first percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game, wherein the predetermined jackpot prize is indicated prior to lottery ticket sales for the lottery game such that the initial predetermined jackpot prize is not completely funded prior to initiation of the lottery game, wherein the guarantee of payment guarantees the difference between the initial predetermined jackpot prize and the first percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game if the percentage of the lottery ticket sales for the lottery game is less than the predetermined jackpot prize, wherein the predetermined jackpot prize is a progressive prize, wherein the guarantee is in exchange for a stipulation of a second percentage of lottery ticket sales in the

lottery game, wherein the second percentage is distinct from the first percentage, wherein the providing the guarantee occurs prior to lottery ticket sales for the lottery game; and

receiving, with a receiving system separate from the lottery operator, the second percentage of lottery ticket sales from the lottery operator.

77. (New) A lottery risk assumption system, comprising:

a prize guarantee system, which is separate from the lottery operator, that provides a guarantee of payment of a predetermined jackpot prize, wherein the predetermined jackpot prize is funded according to a first percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game, wherein the predetermined jackpot prize is indicated prior to lottery ticket sales for the lottery game such that the initial predetermined jackpot prize is not completely funded prior to initiation of the lottery game, wherein the guarantee of payment guarantees the difference between the initial predetermined jackpot prize and the first percentage of lottery ticket sales for the lottery game if the percentage of the lottery ticket sales for the lottery game is less than the predetermined jackpot prize, wherein the predetermined jackpot prize is a progressive prize, wherein the guarantee is in exchange for a stipulation of a second percentage of lottery ticket sales in the lottery game, wherein the second percentage is distinct from the first percentage, wherein the providing the guarantee occurs prior to lottery ticket sales for the lottery game; and

a receiving system that receives, with a receiving system separate from the lottery operator, the second percentage of lottery ticket sales from the lottery operator.